United Nations

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General holds talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on situation in Persian Gulf, UN activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Western Sahara.

- United Nations spokesman reports Swedish soldier serving in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon killed and several wounded.

- Security Council holds consultations on the question of the use of UN helicopters to inspect Iraqi weapons sites.

- Secretary-General welcomes United States and Soviet announcement to cut off weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides.

- General Assembly adopts Secretary-General's second progress report on Implementation of Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in South Africa. Hears statement by anti-Apartheid Committee Chairman.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar arrived today in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah after a three-day official visit to Iran.

In Jeddah he met with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia with whom he discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf, latest developments relating to United Nations activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Western Sahara and recent developments in the international situation. The Secretary-General briefed King Fahd on his efforts to bring stability to Afghanistan on the basis of his five-point proposals of 21 May, which suggested elements that could serve as a basis for a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General had a meeting on the situation in Afghanistan with the President of Pakistan, Ghulam Ishaq Khan. The discussions, which he termed fruitful, covered all aspects of the Afghan question. Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar briefed the President on his latest efforts in promoting a political settlement in Afghanistan, and the President reaffirmed

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his Government's support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and its commitment to a speedy political settlement of the Afghan question.

Also yesterday, Mr. Pérez de Cuellar had discussions with leaders of Mujahedeen groups based in Peshawar, and the leader of the Iran-based Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan.

They discussed all aspects of the situation in Afghanistan and the representatives of the Mujahedeen pledged full support to the Secretary-General's five-point plan for a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Following his talks with the Mujahedeen leaders, the Secretary-General told the press that he had made an appeal to all Mujahedeen factions to refrain from military activity in order to give a chance to his efforts. He said he would discuss the same question with the authorities in Saudi Arabia.

Tomorrow, Mr. Pérez de Cuellar is scheduled to meet with the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Abdullah Bishara. He will return to New York over the weekend.

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A United Nations spokesman told correspondents today that a Swedish soldier serving in United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was killed and several others wounded in an incident earlier today. The office of the Secretary-General was to report to the Security Council after a full investigation had been undertaken by UNIFIL.

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The Security Council held consultations this afternoon to discuss the refusal of the Iraqi authorities to allow an inspection team of the Special Commission on Iraqi Disarmament to overfly Iraqi weapons sites with United Nations helicopters.

Following the meeting, Council President Jean-Bernard Merimée of France told the press that the Council had decided that the Council President should summon the Iraqi Ambassador to tell him that it considered the matter "very serious". Mr. Merimée said he expected to see the Iraqi Ambassador as quickly as possible.

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Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar today welcomed the announcement made by the Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States to discontinue their weapons deliveries to all Afghan sides, effective 1 January 1992.

A United Nations spokesman told correspondents that the Secretary-General had noted with appreciation that such a decision represented a major contribution towards implementing one of the key provisions of his 21 May

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statement. That statement suggested elements which could serve as a basis for a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

The Secretary-General stated that the decision by the United States and Soviet Governments would give impetus to the current efforts aimed at achieving a political solution. He urged all others concerned to urgently take similar decisions in this direction.

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The General Assembly this morning adopted the Secretary-General's second progress report on the Implementation of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution sponsored by Nigeria by which the Secretary-General was asked to continue to promote all efforts leading to the eradication of apartheid through genuine negotiations and to remain actively seized of developments in South Africa. In addition, he was asked to submit to the Assembly, during 1992, another report on further progress in the implementation of the Declaration.

In his report, Mr. Pérez de Cuellar stated that, during the past year, "the progress towards the end of apartheid in South Africa, although halting, remained on course". A most notable development was the repeal of major legal structures of apartheid. The wave of violence that engulfed the country during the period under review had, regrettably, he said, become a severe test of confidence and a serious obstacle to the evolving political dialogue.

In a statement to the Assembly, Chairman of the Special Committee Against Apartheid, Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria said that while a large number of political prisoners had been released, hundreds more were still in jail because the authorities claimed that their offenses were serious and were not of a political nature. It was imperative, he said, that that matter be resolved quickly to open the way for negotiations.

The Assembly will meet again on Monday, 16 September, to close its forty-fifth session.

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